



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 277-2007

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: December 7, 2007

SUBJECT: 63rd Street Bridge Project

The purpose of this letter to Commission is to provide you with an update on the 63rd Street Flyover Removal, Indian Creek Reconstruction and 63rd Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

On June 5th, 2006, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Construction Department began two separate but related projects in and around the intersection of State Road A1A/Indian Creek Drive and 63rd Street in the City of Miami Beach. These projects were performed concurrently to minimize construction time and related impacts. The combined cost for these projects is approximately \$15 million. The two (2) project descriptions are as follows:

The 63rd Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project: replacement of mechanical, electrical, structural components and aesthetic improvements such as new bridge decking, concrete traffic barriers, new decorative hand railing along the sidewalks, new street lights and navigational lights, a fresh coat of paint and new windows for the control house.

The Indian Creek Drive Reconstruction Project: permanent removal of northbound flyover and reconfiguration of the intersection of 63rd Street and Indian Creek Drive as well as new drainage, sidewalks, lighting, roadway, medians, traffic signals, street lights and landscaping.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

The Indian Creek Drive Reconstruction Project was completed February 2007, and the 63rd Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project is almost complete. FDOT has informed the City that the span and taillock gear reducers purchased by the Contractor failed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) minimum 30 year life expectancy requirement and material testing. In order to mitigate this issue, the Contractor will be operating the bridge with temporary gear reducers until the new FHWA-approved reducers are manufactured and installed. The new gear reducers are scheduled to be installed in June 2008, after the end of the school year.

The entire project is expected to be finished by September 2008. To minimize the impact on traffic, the replacement of the gear reducers will be conducted on barges from underneath the bridge. As a result, Alton Road will be reduced to two (2) travel lanes during evening hours only, intermittently, for approximately 3 to 4 hours. In the event of a bridge failure before the permanent reducers are installed, the Contractor will be onsite immediately to ensure emergency response.

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The City has requested to FDOT to keep the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for the 63rd Street Bridge Project in effect until June 2008. The City is evaluating the current free flow operation and the feasibility of keeping this concept as a permanent solution, additionally providing traffic signal pre-emption for crossing pedestrians and northbound left turn emergency vehicles. This operation seems to have reduced potential traffic conflicts and seems to have improved the Level of Service (LOS) at 63rd Street and Collins Avenue and 63rd Street and Indian Creek Drive intersections. Marlin Engineering has been awarded a contract to conduct the evaluation study, which is estimated to be completed within one (1) month.

The construction staging area for the project will be fully restored after the completion of the project, in September 2008. The construction trailers need to remain onsite to be available for the installation of the gear reducers.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.


RCM/FHB/FV

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